



**MAYOR LEE BRAND**

December 13, 2017

Melinda Marks  
Executive Director  
San Joaquin River Conservancy  
5469 E. Olive Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727

Dear Ms. Marks,

I am writing to state my absolute and unequivocal support for public access to the San Joaquin River. As a former member of both the San Joaquin River Conservancy and the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust boards, I have been a longtime advocate for ensuring access for all of our residents to this jewel in our backyard.

After considering all the options, I continue to believe that an access point at Palm and Nees Avenues, known as 5b, is the best choice and is the only option that provides convenient access and public transportation for all Fresno residents. I also understand that this has become a contentious issue. I have tried to broker a compromise in which all parties can come together for the mutual benefit of accessing this resource with as little impact to existing neighborhoods and lives as possible, as well ease of access for the greatest number of people.

Because of this, I want to publicly commit that if, after 12 to 18 months of good faith effort, Alternative 5B at Palm and Nees is found to be technically infeasible, I would recommend the Conservancy revisit River View Drive (Alternative 1) as a potential access point.

As the Conservancy Board considers this issue, I urge its members to do what is best for the people of Fresno, Fresno County, Madera County and access to the San Joaquin River. Just as I am mayor for all of Fresno, I think the best approach to this important issue is to seek a solution that serves as much of the community as possible.

Sincerely,

Lee Brand  
Mayor, City of Fresno